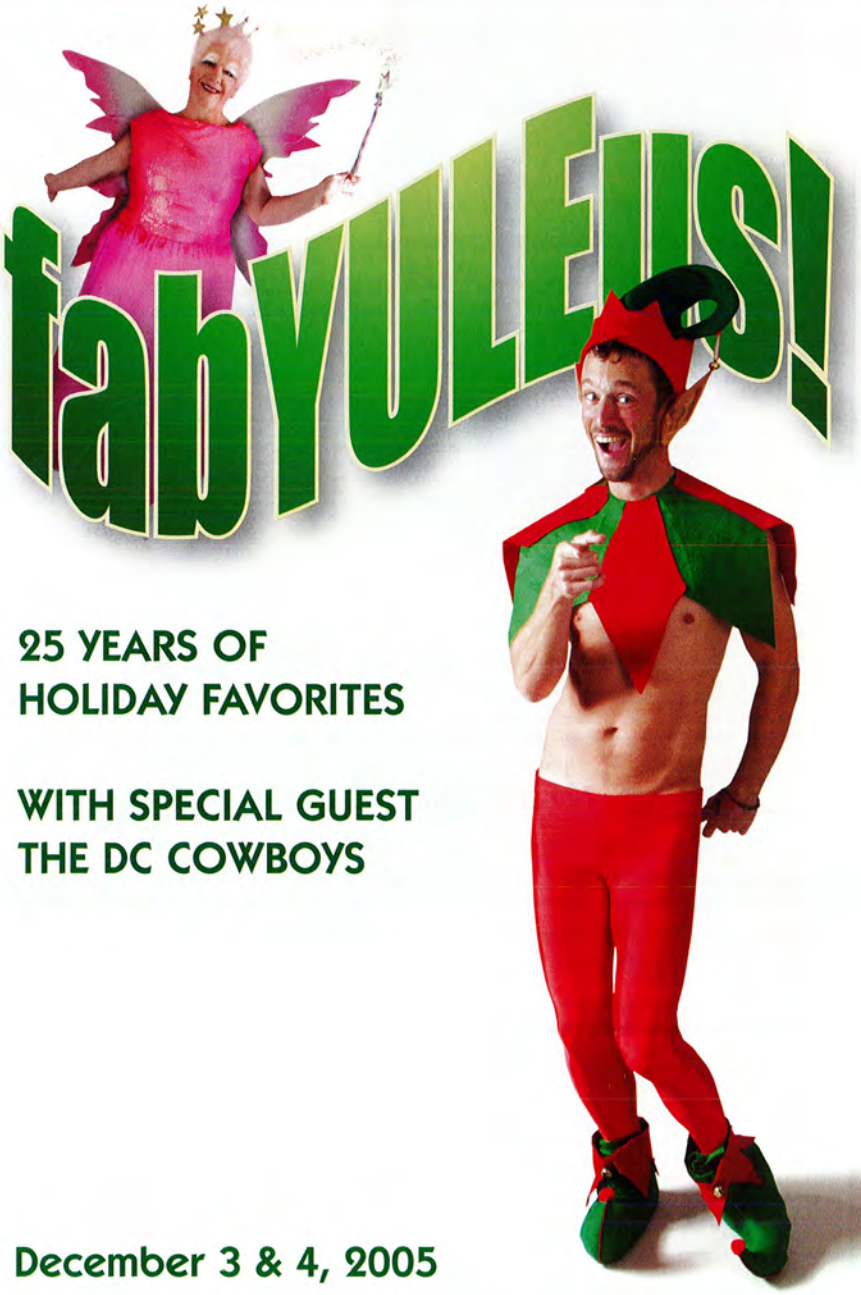
GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC



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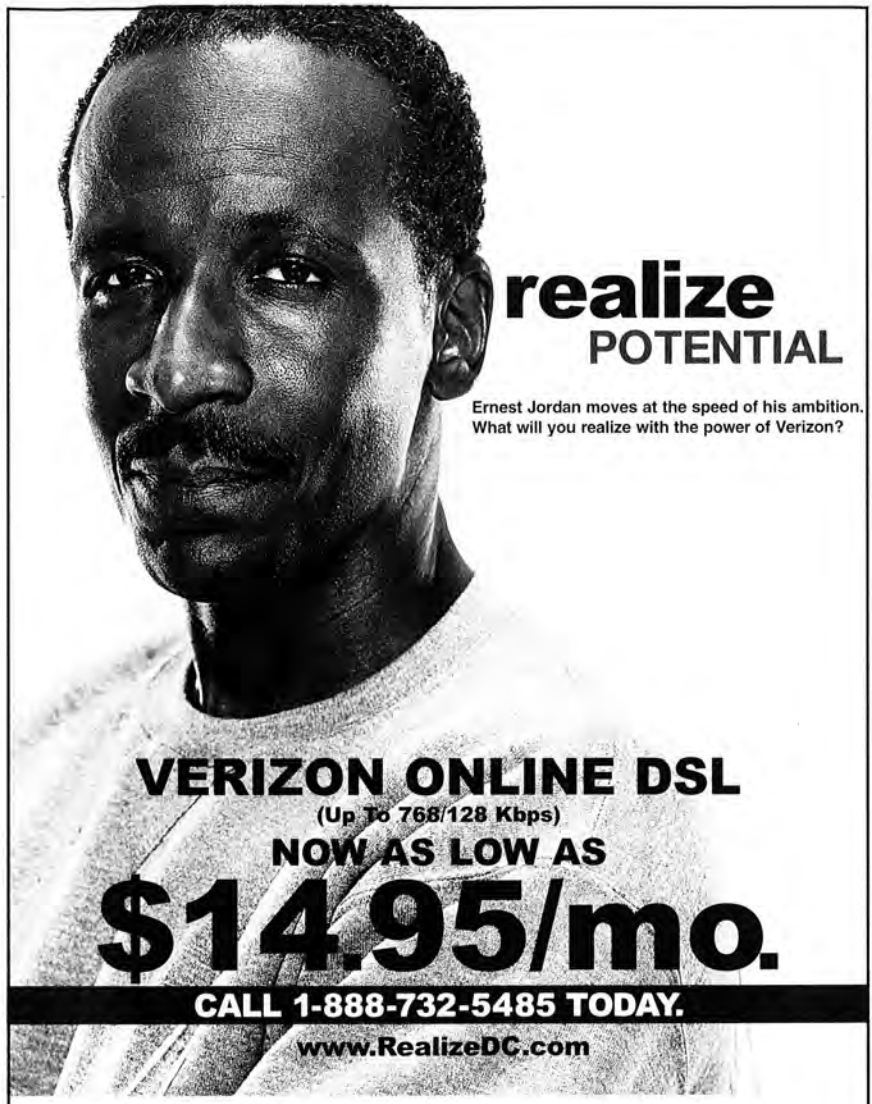

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GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Jeff Buhrman, Artistic Director

Presents

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Assistant Music Director ..... Thea Kano
Stage Director ..... John Moran
Choreographer ..... Scott Roewer
Principal Accompanist ..... Theodore Guerrant
Vocal Coach ..... Philip Rogerson
Assistant to the Stage Director ..... Betsy Libretta
Rehearsal Assistant ..... Ned Read
Artistic Interpreters ..... Jaime Coronado, Jina Lynne
Director, Potomac Fever ..... Jeff Buhrman
Director, Rock Creek Singers ..... Thea Kano
Accompanist, Rock Creek Singers ..... Don Horn

Production Team

Executive Producer ..... Joe Vignali
Producers & Stage Managers ..... Barry Bugg, Larry Rosen
Costume Design/Construction ..... Carl Baldwin, Rick East, Rick Johnson, Gary Turner
Set Construction/Decoration ..... Kit Grieder, Matt Komornik, Stuart Kopperman, Mike Reed, Chuck Walker
Lighting Design ..... Dan Covey
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GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, DC

Now in its 25th season, the **Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC (GMCW)** is at the forefront of the gay and lesbian choral movement, continuing its mission to "entertain through excellent musical performance, to affirm the place of Gay people in society, and to educate about the Gay experience."

Founded in 1981, GMCW quickly became a staple of the Washington choral music scene. Over the years, GMCW has performed at the Kennedy Center, the National Theatre, the Warner Theatre, Constitution Hall, the Lincoln Theatre, and Lisner Auditorium at The George Washington University, along with a number of other venues in and around the District. In addition, GMCW has toured many of the major cities in North America and, in 1998, three Scandinavian capitals. During its 20th anniversary season, GMCW performed at Symphony Hall in Boston and Carnegie Hall in New York City. In December 2002, GMCW was honored to perform as part of the 25th annual **Kennedy Center Honors** in tribute to Elizabeth Taylor. This performance was televised nationwide, bringing the Chorus into millions of homes across the nation.

The more than 200 members of GMCW perform three subscription concerts annually: a holiday concert, a spring concert, and a summer concert. GMCW also appears at a number of community events, including programs for PFLAG, Whitman-Walker Clinic, and Food & Friends. While in Scandinavia, GMCW was received by Sweden's Princess Christina to thank chorus members for singing in support of Noah's Ark, a Swedish AIDS services organization.

GMCW has also been in the forefront of commissioning new works for men's chorus. Recent commissions include *Changing Hearts* for men's chorus and chamber orchestra; and *Oseh Shalom* for men's chorus and brass quintet. In addition, GMCW sponsors two small ensembles: **Potomac Fever**, a close-harmony group; and **Rock Creek Singers**, a 20-voice chamber music ensemble. These ensembles serve as representatives of GMCW at many community functions.

GMCW has won a number of awards, including the prestigious Mayor's Arts Award for artistic excellence in 1989, and three Washington Area Music Association's WAMMIE awards: in 2003 for outstanding Choral Group, in 2002 for outstanding classical-choral recording (for *I Dream of a Time*) and in 1995 for outstanding gospel-inspirational performance (for *Live at the Lincoln*). In April 2003, GMCW received a Distinguished Service Award from the Gay & Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC for its commitment to protecting and promoting the civil rights of lesbians and gay men in the national capital area. *Pride and Joy*, GMCW's holiday music CD, was nominated for both a WAMMIE and a GLAMMA award, given by the national Gay and Lesbian Music Association. In addition, the full Chorus can be heard on the CDs *Singing Free, Let It Shine!, Pride and Joy, And In That Moment, I Dream of a Time, You've Got To Be Carefully Taught: The Songs of Sondheim and Hammerstein,* and its latest release, *Changing Hearts.*

GMCW is a proud member of Chorus America, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA Choruses), the Consortium of Gay Choruses, the Cultural Alliance of Washington, the Washington Council of Agencies and the GLBT Arts Consortium of Washington.

GMCW's ensembles are activities of the Federal City Performing Arts Association, a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, which also sponsors a chorus fundraising group called the Capital Club. Information on upcoming GMCW events may be obtained by calling **202-293-1548** or by visiting the Chorus' web page at **www.gmcw.org**.

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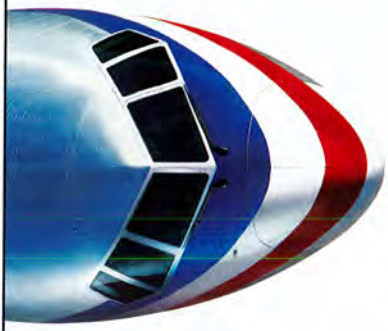

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www.dccowboys.org

Jack Reiffer

OVATIONS

I hope you will greet our songs and our show with an ovation. Your applause creates energy in this hall for the performers, and in fact for the rest of the audience. Energy that is creative in the give and take of performance!

Next week, after we have packed away our elves costumes, sent our tuxes to the cleaners, written our thank-you notes to DC Cowboys, paid our orchestra and returned our music to storage, then we have another ovation to offer: To applaud David Bielenberg, our Executive Director, to send him on his way with a standing ovation.

David has worked for GMCW these past four years. Now he is moving to Baltimore to become the first Executive Director of the Maryland Arts Festival at Towson University. For professional but also personal reasons, this is a good move for David. His partner lives and works in Baltimore.

We wish David well. His energy in representing GMCW throughout the community has paid off in increased visibility and recognition of our mission and outreach efforts. Corporate sponsorships and advertising have grown these past four years. Our professional management staff has been enlarged, with impressive advances in our business practices, customer service and marketing. Every printed program and newsletter under David's leadership has made a point of keeping the GMCW vision front and center, and of reporting to you our many outreach and community services projects.

Applause all around for David!

Ovations work both ways. It's that creative energy of performance! We also applaud you.

One of David's contributions has been to organize our Ovation Society. Put GMCW into your estate plans and we will be applauding you and your memory for years to come! Twenty thousand dollars from your estate would amount to a perpetual gift of $1000/year. What a gift!

In this 25th Anniversary year we are also depending on your new and increased gifts. See the description of **25 for 25**, our anniversary year giving plan, on page 46. A significant portion of all new gifts will go toward our Century Circle Fund, ensuring the long-term stability of the Chorus. The rest will be used for this year's ambitious programs.

Applause all around for your love and support of GMCW!

Jack Reiffer
Board Chair

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SONGS OF MY FAMILY

Jeff Buhrman

Creating commissioned works has been a hallmark of the gay and lesbian choral movement for the last 30 years. In these choral works we often set the stories of our lives to music. Tim Seelig, the Artistic Director of the Turtle Creek Chorale explained it this way: "One of the incredible gifts of the gay choral movement has been a new world of commissioned music. Not only have we been able to bring our music to countless audiences, but we have been able to leave a legacy for those who will follow. We leave music that can be sung long after we are all gone. The impact on the world of choral music has been enormous and will only continue to grow as we continue creating these new, significant works."

GMCW's most recent commission *CHANGING HEARTS* is a 25 minute song cycle which explores the ways the gay choral movement has brought healing, understanding, compassion, acceptance and affinity to many different hearts — including our own. We sang the world premiere in Washington, DC in July, 2004. Two weeks later we performed the piece at the GALA Choruses Festival in Montreal.

Since our performace in Montreal *CHANGING HEARTS* has now been sung by choruses in Kansas City, San Jose, Seattle, Phoenix, and Orange County, California. We couldn't be more thrilled by the fact that our stories are being shared around the world.

I am excited to announce that we are planning our newest major commission — ***SONGS OF MY FAMILY***, a 45 minute choral work for men's chorus and chamber orchestra. With music by composer Robert Seeley (*NakedMan*) and lyrics by Robert Espindola, this new work will enrich our understanding of the different kinds of families that make up our society. We will be honoring and celebrating families by the telling of our stories. The world premiere of *SONGS OF MY FAMILY* will be in June, 2007. As we begin working on our new commission we need your help.

We would love for you to share your story about family!

***SONGS OF MY FAMILY* will be based on YOUR stories about family.** Are you a parent of a gay child? Are you a gay person with children? Have you created a family with your partner? Are you an older person with memories of family? Are you a child with gay parents? Have you created a new family with friends? Are you a teenager looking for a new family? Are you a member of a team or organization that has become your family? Are you estranged from your biological family? Are you searching for a family?

We invite you to be a part of an incredible collaboration by completing a questionnaire that you can find online. It can be 100% anonymous or you may share your name. You can answer as many or as few of the questions as you like.

Please go to **www.gmcw.org/songsofmyfamily** to complete the questionnaire and to follow the life of our new commission. And please share this website address with others.

Have a peaceful and joyous holiday season,
Jeff

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Tom DiGiovanni

"fabYULEus!" It's a catchy name for a holiday concert.

But more than that, it's a wonderful description of the synergy between GMCW members and audiences. Like the Christmas season, our collaboration is about giving and giving back to others.

For 25 years, we've made beautiful music and we've made history. We've worked side by side to entertain through excellent musical performance, to affirm the place of Gay people in society, and to educate about the Gay experience. What better gift can we give than to touch hearts and change perceptions — whether here in this auditorium, on tour in a rural town, or on nation-wide television?

Our music and words express our hopes, our dreams and our wishes to make the world more tolerant, accepting and loving. Your presence in the audience and your contributions affirm and support these worthy endeavors.

On behalf of all of our members, thank you for your many gifts to us. Have a joyous holiday season and best wishes for the New Year. Enjoy the concert!

Tom DiGiovanni

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Alison Brown
Winter's Eve

Friday, December 16 at 8 pm

Alison Brown has earned an international following for her finesse on the banjo, garnering bluegrass music's highest honor: the International Bluegrass Music Association Banjo Player of the Year. Commenting on her beautiful, unique singing style and technical mastery, *The Boston Globe* wrote: "Brown's sweet, fluid jazz fusions are as sophisticated as they are beguiling." *Winter's Eve* evokes the wonder of the season, drawing on the diverse influences of bluegrass, folk, jazz, and Celtic music in a performance that imbues the holidays with grace and warmth.

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Canadian Brass
Canadian Brass Christmas

Saturday, December 17 at 8 pm

Their annual appearance has become one of the most eagerly anticipated holiday events at the Center. "Virtuosic musicianship, masterful interpretations and flashes of humor…repertoire that encompasses Bach to blues… make the Canadian Brass the world's leading brass ensemble." (*The Washington Post*) A delightful holiday event for the whole family!

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25 Years of Holiday Favorites

GMCW

Twelve Days to Christmas ..... Jerry Bock & Sheldon Harnick
(from *She Loves Me*)

Ave Maria ..... Franz Biebl
with the Rock Creek Singers

There Shall a Star ..... Felix Mendelssohn
Soloists: Michael Fratz, Kevin Boswell, Russ Capps

ROCK CREEK SINGERS

What Child Is This ..... Arranged by Mark Riese

GMCW

I Wonder As I Wander ..... Arranged by John Jacob Niles
Soloist: Denis Kovanda

Light the Legend ..... Michael Isaacson
Arranged by Bruce Trinkley

POTOMAC FEVER

That Special Time of Year ..... Arranged by Gary Simmons

GMCW

The Sleigh ..... Richard Kountz
Arranged by Ralph Baldwin

Let Us Break Bread/Freedom ..... Arranged by Bruce Trinkley
Soloists: Van Neel, Jere Lorenzen

Heavy Christmas ..... Arranged by David Maddux

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PROGRAM LISTING

fabYULEUS!

25 Years of Holiday Favorites

GMCW

The Elves' Broadway Christmas ..... Arranged by Kevin Robison

The Three Kings and A Star ..... Arranged by Winston Clark

ROCK CREEK SINGERS

March of the Toy Soldiers ..... Arranged by John Smiles

GMCW

Dance of the Toy Flutes ..... Peter I. Tchaikovsky

Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy ..... Peter I. Tchaikovsky

DC COWBOYS

Up on the Housetop ..... Recorded by Reba McIntire

Hangin' 'Round the Mistletoe ..... Recorded by Brooks & Dunn

GMCW

Holiday Sing-Along (Lyrics on page 29) ..... Traditional

Christmas in Washington ..... Robert Allen & Al Stillman

Favorite One ..... Cy Coleman, Betty Comden, Adoph Green

POTOMAC FEVER

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas ..... Arranged by Gary Simmons

GMCW

Suzy Snowflake ..... Sid Tepper & Roy Brodsky

Silent Night ..... Traditional

MEET OUR SPONSOR

If you're lucky, there will be a restaurant in the town where you live that's comfortable, serves good food, stays open long hours and where you'll feel like a regular after just one visit. In Washington, that place is Annie's Paramount Steak House.

Walk in on a Friday night at the end of a long week and you'll find the tables and bar full of people who gather week after week to enjoy sizzling steaks, the company of good friends and the views of the passing parade on 17th Street. In fact, Annie's is probably the one area restaurant where people sit willingly in the smoking section where they can see the street!

But Annie's is not just the place to be on Friday nights. With its weekend midnight brunch and 24 hour operation, Annie's is bustling all the time.

Nicknamed for Annie Kaylor of the Katinas family, Annie's has been a family operation since 1948. This year marks Annie's 57th Anniversary. And because the family makes dining so comfortable, their steakhouse has become a "home away from home" for many in the gay community.

Over the years, Annie's Paramount Steak House has been one of the most loyal supporters of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, and has been a sponsor of our annual Holiday concert since 1993.

GMCW is enormously grateful to Annie's for their continuing support and invites our audience to head on over to 17th Street, ask for Annie, and give her a personal word of gratitude for sponsoring the fine music you're hearing at this concert. Besides, if you were quite taken with that cute tenor in the third row, you're likely to run into him at Annie's, too!

— by Bill Eadie

And now a word from Annie's:

Annie's has been, and always will be, a simple place — a place where people can come and feel at home. It has been our motto since our beginning that anyone and everyone who walks through our doors should be and will be treated with dignity and respect. We honestly believe that through our doors walk the finest people — you, our customers!

At the end of our 57th, moving into our 58th year, we would like to say thank you for your faithful support of Annie's Paramount Steak House.

Sincerely,
Annie & Staff

THE CAST

TWELVE DAYS TO CHRISTMAS "SHOPPERS"

Edward Allen
Larry Boylan
Forrest Clift
Steve Crutchfield
Tom DiGiovanni
Alex Ford
Stuart Goldstone
Kit Grieder
Leo Luberecki
Paul Pompeo
David Ponder
Reg Richards
Craig Ruskin
Owen Taggart
Anthony Vitelli

BROADWAY "ELVES"

Carl Baldwin
Joe Canter
Rick East
John Favazzo
Stuart Goldstone
Kit Grieder
Paul Kelsch
Stuart Kopperman
Paul Lee
Dan Patton
Owen Taggart
Tim Tourbin
Ryan Williams

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The Star: Chip Crews
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PJ Brennan
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Rob Driggers
Brett Freeman
Mike Nguyen
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Dennis Palaganas
Scott Reiber
Sean Robinson

DC COWBOYS

Todd Christensen
Craig Cippollini
Caleb Holifield
Denis Kovanda
Darien Long
Steve Nanney
Enrique Perez
Kevin Platte
Shane Reppert
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And on every street corner you hear...

Silver bells, silver bells; it's Christmas time in the city.
Ring-a-ling, hear them sing; soon it will be Christmas day.

Strings of street lights, even stop lights blink a bright red and green.
As the shoppers rush home with their treasures.
Hear the snow crunch, see the kids bunch; this is Santa's big scene
And above all this bustle you hear...

Silver bells, silver bells; it's Christmas time in the city
Ring-a-ling, hear them sing; soon it will be Christmas day.

WHITE CHRISTMAS

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
Just like the ones I used to know,
Where the treetops glisten, and children listen
To hear sleigh bells in the snow.

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
With every Christmas card I write.
May your days be merry and bright,
And may all your Christmases be white.

THE DREIDEL SONG

I have a little dreidel, I made it out of clay. And when it's dry and ready, then, dreidel I shall play.
Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of clay.
Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, now dreidel we shall play.
It has a lovely body with legs so short and thin.
And when it gets all tired it drops and then I win.
My dreidel is so playful, it loves to dance and spin.
A happy game of dreidel, come play now, let's begin.
Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of clay.
Oh, dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, now dreidel we shall play.

ROCKIN'AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Rockin' around the Christmas Tree at the Christmas party hop.
Mistletoe hung where you can see, ev'ry couple tries to stop.

Rocking around the Christmas Tree, let the Christmas Spirit ring.
Later we'll have some pumpkin pie and we'll do some caroling.

You will get a sentimental feeling when you hear,
Voices singing "Let's be jolly; Deck the halls with boughs of holly!"
Rockin' around the Christmas tree, have a happy holiday.
Everyone's dancing merrily in a new old fashioned way.

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WHO'S WHO

JEFF BUHRMAN, Artistic Director

Jeff Buhrman is in his fifth season as Artistic Director of GMCW. During his tenure the chorus has performed in Carnegie Hall in New York, Symphony Hall in Boston, and at the Kennedy Center. In December 2002 GMCW was featured at the Kennedy Center Honors, appearing in the CBS television special in which they sang a tribute to Elizabeth Taylor. Under Jeff's leadership the chorus has grown to over 200 singers and has recorded three compact discs. GMCW's 20th anniversary CD, *I Dream of a Time*, won the 2002 Washington Area Music Association's WAMMIE award for outstanding choral recording. Consistently praised by local critics, GMCW was hailed as "one of the finest male choruses in the world" in 2001 by a Washington Post critic. Another noted that "huge choruses often sound thick and ponderous, but conductor Jeff Buhrman educed a light, limber, beautifully balanced sonority that ebbed and shimmered, framing lyrics with coronas of color."

Jeff began his association with GMCW directing the small ensemble Potomac Fever in 1988, a job he held for the next 10 seasons. In 1989 he began an eight-year run as Assistant Director of the chorus, working with Music Director Jim Holloway. Jeff had the honor of directing GMCW at an inauguration concert for President Clinton in 1997.

Under Jeff's direction, Potomac Fever attained a wide following with its distinctive style, which is characterized by fluid phrasing and warmth of tone. Through his tenure the group performed many concerts and fundraisers within the gay community. The highlight of his decade with the group came in 1997 with the release of the CD *In Our Lifetime*, followed by a European tour, at which Potomac Fever sang at the opening ceremony of the European Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses festival in Munich. Potomac Fever had the distinction of being the only American group to perform at the festival. Jeff is once again directing Potomac Fever.

A lifelong musician, Jeff holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education and voice from Montclair State University. In addition, he studied voice with Marden Bate and conducting with David Randolph, and received additional training in voice with Walter Blazer of the Manhattan School of Music. He has performed with such preeminent choral conductors as Robert Shaw, Roger Wagner, David Randolph, and Dennis Keene.

Jeff has more than 20 years of experience as a choral director, working with high school choruses, community choruses and church choirs. A devotee of musical theater, Jeff has also directed a number of musicals including *Bye Bye Birdie, Once Upon a Mattress*, and *Bells are Ringing*, and musical directed many others including GMCW's productions of *Little Shop of Horrors* and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Jeff brought his love of cabaret singing to GMCW when he initiated the first cabaret in 2002, *Love Songs and Other Fairy Tales*.

Jeff also has a Master of Arts degree in counseling from The George Washington University. He ended a 26 year tenure in education in 2000 when he became GMCW's first full-time Artistic Director.

Who's Who continued on page 35.

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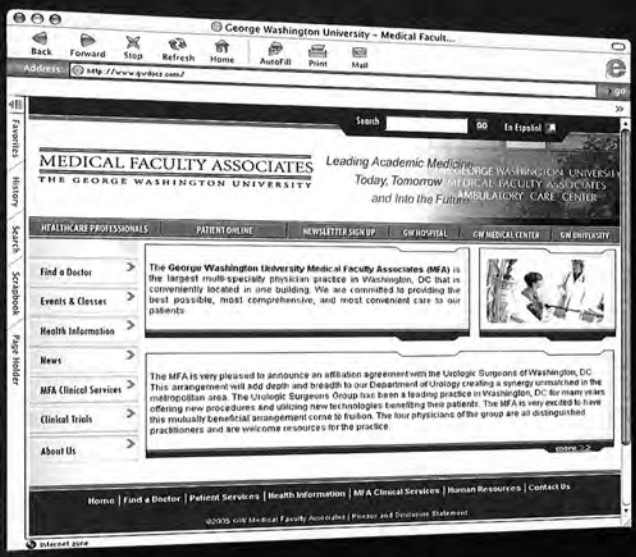

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Who's Who continued from page 31.

THEA KANO, Assistant Music Director

A native of northern California, Thea Kano began studying the piano at the age of four. She studied music at Arizona State University, where she received her undergraduate degree in Choral Music Education and Piano Performance. Thea taught high school vocal music and musical theater in southern California for several years. Her ensembles received several prestigious awards, including Most Outstanding Performance at the Reno International Jazz Festival. Thea earned her Master of Music degree in choral conducting from UCLA and recently completed the doctoral program in choral conducting there with Donald Neuen. Additional study includes private conducting lessons with Paul Salamunovich. While attending graduate school, Thea served as the Assistant Director of the Angeles Chorale and was the Artistic Director of the San Fernando Valley Youth Chorus in Los Angeles. She was an administrative assistant and teaching associate for the Department of Choral Music at UCLA where she directed the University Chorus. Additional responsibilities included serving as the Assistant Conductor of the UCLA Chorale and the UCLA Chamber Singers. In addition to her duties with GMCW, Thea is the Assistant Conductor of The Washington Chorus and the Artistic Director of the Capitol Hill Children's Chorus.

JOHN MORAN, Stage Director

After directing *Bye, Bye Birdie* and other projects for GMCW, John continues this season with the concept and direction for *Everything's Coming Up Sondheim!* and other directing assignments for the chorus. In the past year, he has been coast-to-coast directing shows in California featuring the Russian National Orchestra (Carlo Ponti, Jr. conducting); the National Arts Awards for Americans for the Arts in New York (Mikhail Baryshnikov, Tommy Tune, Kitty Carlisle Hart, Kerry Washington); and Vital Voices from the Kennedy Center (Sally Field, Julia Ormond, Andrea Mitchell, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Madeline Albright, Thomas Kean) in Washington, DC among many other projects.

SCOTT ROEWER, Choreographer

Scott began his dance training while performing with various drum and bugle corps. He took his first dance class while in college at the University of Nebraska — Lincoln, where he also earned a bachelor's degree in Music Education. Additionally, Scott has a Masters of Music Education from the Conservatory of Music, University of Missouri — Kansas City. Scott has worked as a choreographer and adjudicator for numerous high school drill teams and winter guard units in Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Previously a music and theater teacher, Scott has directed and choreographed musical productions and founded a successful summer theater program for youth in the Kansas City area. Since moving to

Who's Who continued on page 39.

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Who's Who continued from page 35.

Washington, DC, Scott has assisted with the choreography of the PBS special, *A Capital Fourth 2004* and has returned to GMCW for his third season. Scott's one big claim to fame is that he can be seen as a featured dancer in the Universal motion picture, *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar.* Scott is a Professional Organizer and Event Planner. Visit www.Solutions-by-Scott.com. Scott would like to thank all the dancers for their hard work.

THEODORE GUERRANT, Principal Accompanist

Now in his 23rd season as GMCW's Principal Accompanist, "Dr. Teddy" first came on board in 1983 as Jim Holloway's other two hands, as it were, under the baton of the late Dr. Jim Richardson. Subsequently, after serving under conductors Bruce Trinkley, Jim Hollowa, and Greg Ruffer, he now gaily accompanies Jeff Buhrman. He has traveled with the Chorus from Vancouver to Scandinavia and from Boston to San Francisco, and passed his own half-century mark at the end of the 1999 – 2000 season as he and the Chorus headed for San Jose and their fifth GALA experience together.

A nephew and student of the late Georgian pianist Eliza Holmes Feldman, he holds five degrees in keyboard performance: the Bachelor of Music cum laude in piano and the Master of Fine Arts in harpsichord from the University of Georgia, the Master of Music in piano from the University of Wisconsin, the Doctor of Musical Arts in piano performance literature from the University of Maryland, and the Graduate Performance Diploma in organ from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He was the recipient of several academic scholarships and studied piano additionally in England with Denise Lassimonne.

Dr. Guerrant is Organist-Choirmaster at Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church on Connecticut Avenue in Washington, DC (where Dignity worships); Associate Organist at Saint Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Hyattsville; Assisting Organist at the University of Maryland Chapel; and accompanies, additionally, the Laurel Oratorio Society and the Montgomery County Masterworks Chorus. He is Coordinator of Accompanying Activities for the University of Maryland School of Music and currently belongs to seven professional music organizations. In his spare time he is fascinated by fans, clocks, organs, telephones, cats, metaphysics and musclemen.

PHIL ROGERSON, Vocal Coach

A native of West Virginia and a private teacher of voice and piano in the Washington area, Phil has been an active member of the Chorus since it was founded in 1981. He is a graduate of West Virginia University with bachelor's and master's degrees in music education.

Phil teaches a class in vocal technique each Sunday for an hour before regular rehearsal for members who have never had formal vocal instruction. Phil also assists individual singers with vocal problems. He is

Who's Who continued on page 43.

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Who's Who continued from page 39.

active in many local music organizations, and has served as president of the Southern Maryland Choral Society, the Choristers' Guild and the Prince George's Music Teachers Association.

DAVID BIELENBERG, Executive Director

David has served as GMCW's Executive Director since October 2001. Under his leadership, the Chorus has experienced a marked enhancement of its administrative operations including increased fundraising support from individuals and corporate sponsors and improved marketing and communications initiatives. During his 4-year tenure, GMCW's annual budget has grown by more than 50% from $423,000 to $750,000.

David's professional career includes more than fifteen years experience as an arts administrator. Previous positions have included serving as Director of Development for the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and as Associate Director of Development for Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut. Before moving to New Haven, he worked for a number of performing arts organizations in New York City, including the Paul Taylor Dance Company, the Tisch School for the Arts at NYU, and the concert series at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. In addition to these full-time positions, David has served as a consultant to a number of choral organizations, including the Elm City Girls' Choir (New Haven) and the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus.

David is an active member of the Washington area's GLBT and Arts Communities, serving as treasurer of the DC-GLBT Arts Consortium, as a member of the Capital Pride planning committee and the Hillwood Museum & Gardens LGBT Advisory Committee.

A native of Baltimore, David also has an extensive background in choral music. Since the age of nine, he has sung regularly with school and community choruses as well as with professional church choirs in Baltimore, New York, New Haven and Rockville, MD. He also conducted an *a capella* choral ensemble at the Tisch School for the Arts from 1995 – 1996.

David earned his Bachelor of Music with a business minor from New York University, and expects to complete the Master of Arts in Arts Administration program through Goucher College in Baltimore in July 2006.

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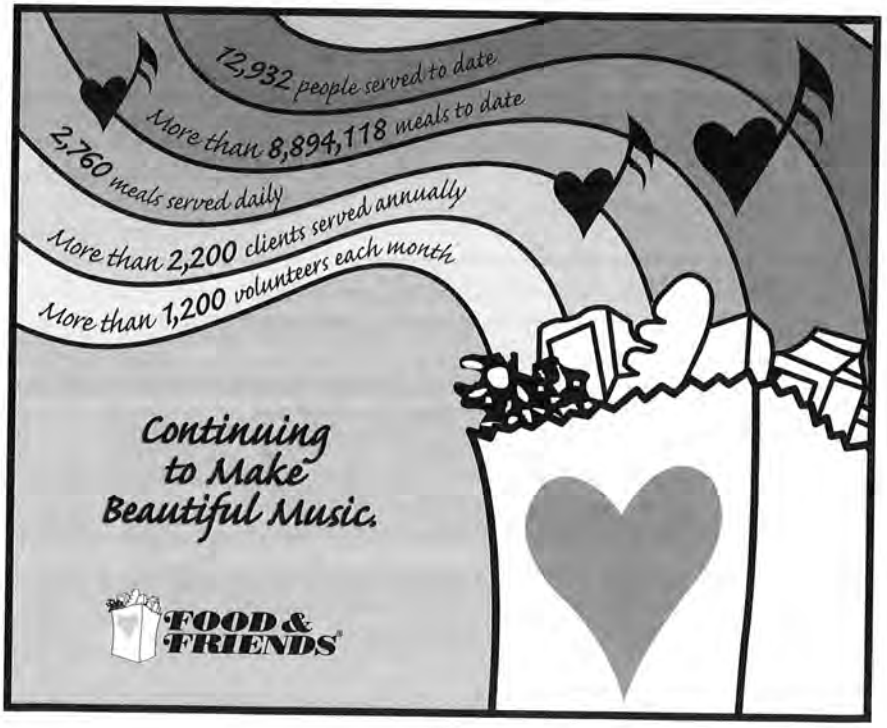

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Corey Bent 1994
Barry Bugg 1996
Glen Burgess 2004
Scott Button 2000
Michael Cunningham 1985
Dave Edmiston 1996
Teddy Guerrant 1983
Steven Haber 1989
Randy Hebert 2005
Steve Herman 1981
Marsha Holloman 2000
Rick Johnson 1995
Steve Katsurinis 2004
Michael Key 2004
Bob Klein 1999 (SL)
Jason Kuznicki 2000
Phil Lawrence 2005
CJ Liotta 2002
Kathy McGee 2000
Patrick O'Donnell 2004
Jeff Parker 2005
Shirley Paul 2000
Michael Reed 2005
Geoffrey Rhone 2005
Laurence A. Rosen 1993 (SL)
Mary Scott 1992
Peter Torrez 1994
Gary Turner 1993
Ray Unger 2005
Joe Vignali 1995

First Tenors

Timothy Allmond, Jr. 1999 (SL)(RCS)
Jay Ball 2001
Joe Bloomer 1999
Brad Boekeloo 1992 (RCS)
Fred Boykin 1981
Laurence Boylan 2002 (RCS)
Peter Brayton 1984
Charles R. Butler, III 1981 (RCS)
Joe Cannon 1981
Marc Clodfelter 2004
Tony Conto 2003
Steve Crutchfield 1987
Bill Cutter 1998
Richard Dew 2004
John Favazzo 2003 (PF)
Greg Finch 2003
Alex Ford 1996 (SL)
Andy Fouche 2004
Peter Fox 2002
Michael Fratz 2005
Joel Furtick 2002
Don Garapolo 2002
Paul George 2000
Nathaniel Gordon 2004
Bob Halbert 2001 (PF)
William Healey 2005
Chip Heath 1994
Michael Horton 2000
Scott Hubli 2003
Eric James 2002 (PF)
Kelly Johnson 2005
Ron Kludo 2005
Bert le Roux 2004 (RCS)
Jere Lorenzen 2003 (PF)
Craig Lustig 1999
John Masters 2005
Christiaan McEwen 2002
Gordon McGraw 1998
Kerry Neal 2002
Van Neel 1990 (PF)
Charles Nolan 2005
Nathan Osburn 2005
Dennis Palaganas 2002
Dan Patton 1995
Michael Phelps 2004
Paul E. Pompeo 2004
Gary Regan 1990
Jack Reiffer 1998
Scott Roewer 2003
Cammon Ross 2005
Phil Rogerson 1981
Mick Smythwood 2004
Jim Stanko 1990
David Streit 1988
Will Trokey 2004
Tim Turbin 2005
Jeff Van Luyn 1983
Jason Varvas 2004
Kevin Webster 1993
Jim Williams 1991
Michael K. Wynne 2001 (PF)

Second Tenors

Tsar Agus 2003
Edward Allen 2005
Ryan Athearn 2001
Carl Baldwin 1992
Eddie Bates 2005
Jeremy Bauer 2005
Eric Belkengren 2001
Roger Bergstrom 1985
Kevin Boswell 2005
Wynn Bressler 2003
Dave Carmody 1999
Edgar Casas 2005
Forrest Clift 2004
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Chris Cochran 1995
Harvey Cohen 1985
Tony Cunningham 2002
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Mark Evans 2004
Alvin Figer 2002
Paul Foley 2004
Robert Gunnell 2004
Martin Haley 2004
Jeff Hamlin 2000
Sean Hanrahan 2002
Andrew Harmon 2002 (RCS)
Michael Hayes 2004
Abrahem Helal 2004
Mark Hennen 2004
Rob Hensley 1999 (RCS)
Rick Jacobs 2000
Micah Jensen 2005
Robert Johnson 2005
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Christian Jones 2005
Matt Kingsley 2004
Gary Knight 2003
Matt Komornik 1993
Stuart Kopperman 1996
Denis Kovanda 2004
Mark Leger 2005
Lee Lowder 2004
Leo Luberecki 2002
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Ryan Masser 2005
Gordon Mehlman 2004
John-Philip Mullinax 2005
Tom Nichols 1997
John O'Brien 2004
Darren O'Neill 2002 (RCS)
Stan Piotroski 1991
Reg Richards 2003 (RCS)
Scott Reiber 2004 (PF)
David Robinson 1988
Sean Robinson 2000 (SL) (RCS)
Steven Sanders 2003
Charles Sarner 1993
Paul Singletary 2000
Jeff Sliauzis 2003
David Smith 1993
Robert Smith 2003
Scott Starin 2000 (RCS)

(SL) Section Leader

(PF) Potomac Fever

Shawn Strout 2003 (SL)
Mead Summer 2001
Michael Taylor 2001
Gregory Tepe 1994
Michael Toth 2004
Luis Vasquez 2005
Marc Villafana 2002
Anthony Vitelli 2002
Gary Voudrie 2005
Chuck Walker 1995
Bryce Weems 2002
John White 1999
Ryan Williams 2004
Ken Williamson 2005
Alexander Wright 2004
Jerry Yoder 2003
Justin Zimmerman 2004

Baritones

Robert M. Agnello 2002 (SL)
Eric Akridge 1995
Tim Allen 2003
Mitch Alvarado 2005
Ted Arceneaux 2005
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Joel Kopperud 2005
Paul Lee 2003
William Lee 2001
Bill Lipsett 1991
Mark Mann 2004
Reggie Meneses 2005
Jonathan Mikhalevsky 2004
Ralph Moore 2003
Charlie Mountain 2002 (PF)
Mike Nguyen 2004
Ron Norberg 2002
Edward P. Oseroff 1990
Emanuel Payton 2003
Nick Pietras 2004
Larry Poole 2005
Steve Rappaport 1994 (SL)
Joe Riddle 2004
Juan Rodriguez 2005
Will Rumble 2002
Burl Salmon 2004
Brian Schulli 2003 (RCS)
Corey Sell 2004
Bob Sheavly 1999
Jeff Shields 2005
Michael Smith 1990 (PF)
Steve Spar 1996
Rodney Stephens 2005
Will Stevenson 2005
Carl Stewart 2002
L. Owen Taggart 2002
Kim L Tan 2003
Ed Taponan 2001
John Weibel 1985

Basses

Jeremy Aldridge 2004
Michael Armentrout 2002
Terry M. Ayers 1999
Jack Bailey 2005
Michael Baker 1981
W. Eric Balthrop 1993
Mark Blaylock 2002 (PF)
Felix Boccadoro 2001
Michael Brinkman 2000 (SL)
Marcus Brown 2004
Russ Capps 1999 (PF)
Aaron J. Clarke 2004
Cory Clifton 2003
Ted Collins 1995
Blake Cornish 2003
Tom DiGiovanni 1999
Dean Donovan 1997
Bob Dragoset 1984 (RCS)
Robert Featherstone 1998
Craig Ferrier 2003
Ken Fox 2005
Jimmy Galdieri 2001
Jim Gruschus 1995 (RCS)
Michael Hart 2001
John-Paul Hayworth 2005
Bob Hilby 1999
Michael Hughes 2002
Joe Henderson 2002
Dennis Jaffe 1998
Dave Jansing 1999
Dan Kaufman 1990
Paul Leavitt 2001 (RCS)
Jerry Lee 1993
Mark Lefler 2004
Harold Lewis 1995
Michael Lohmann 2000 (RCS)
Stephen McGregor 2005
Jim Murphy 1988 (RCS)
Joe Murray 2003
Rob Neighbour 1992
Yoshi Nishio 1999 (RCS)
Todd Paul 1994
Steven Pflasterer 1987
David Ponder 2005
John Quiñones 1990
Bob Reeg 1995
Travis Reid 2004
Paree Roper 1993
Craig Ruskin 2001 (PF)
Morgan Slusher 2000
Tony Taouk 2005
Warren Turner 1993
Tom VandenBosch 2005
Lyn Van Noy 2002
Austin Vines 2004
Joachim Voss 2003
Brian Walther 2003 (SL) (RCS)
Terry Welling 2005
Barrett Whitener 1998
Dennis Williams 2004
Paul Winters 2000

OVATION SOCIETY

The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC's Ovation Society

GMCW's **Ovation Society** is a new initiative that will recognize and honor those individuals who have made planned gifts to the Chorus.

A number of GMCW family members have already made plans to contribute a portion of their estate to the Chorus. The **Ovation Society** is a way that we can recognize those individuals for their generosity.

If you have already included GMCW in your estate plans, please let us know so we can include you as a member of the **Ovation Society**.

If not, we hope you will consider joining this special group of individuals by including GMCW in your will, as a beneficiary of a retirement account or by setting up a charitable trust. In some cases, planned gifts allow you to control where much of your estate will go, rather than to the federal government. Charitable gifts can greatly reduce the amount of tax paid by your estate at the time of your death, and often does not change the amount that would go to your family and friends.

Your own attorney or accountant can provide you with more information on the many ways you can set up an estate gift to the Chorus. There are also a number of professionals who know the Chorus well and can advise you on the options that might best suit your situation. And remember, you don't need to be a millionaire to do this — many charitable gifts are made through estates valued at only a few hundred thousand dollars.

As a member of the **Ovation Society** your name will be included in a special listing in each concert program. You will also be invited from time to time to attend special events and receptions especially for **Ovation Society** members. And **Ovation Society** members will receive a special pin, recognizing their planned gift to the Chorus.

For further information about GMCW's **Ovation Society**, if you are interested in learning more about the many ways that you can include GMCW in your plans or if you would like the names of some professionals who can assist you in doing so, please contact David Bielenberg at 202-293-1548.

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Tom Avenmarg
Chuck Bailey
Bill Barry
Bob Bester
Michael G. Bohn
Craig R. Bowen
C. David Bury
Ted Butler
Jim Campillo
Bill Carwithen
Randy Cooke
Daniel Coombs
Tom Dudley
Bob Edwards
Richard Fromm
Oscar Garcia-Vera
Ciro J. Graziano
Peter Griffith
George Guarino
Barry Hahn
Roger Harlow
John B. Henderson
Scott Herring
Jim Hix
Michael Hodge
R. Andy Horsley
Joe Houle
Gary L. Janus
Jim Jochen
Gary Johnson
Dan Jones
Willis R. King
William Kranick
Steven LeBlanc
Wayne Longest
Steve Maddox
Christopher Marquis
Leonard Matlovich
W. Myron Maye
James McCann
Tim McDonough
Jim Meany
Mark Mennel
Phil Moss
Jim Moore
David Nieto
Norman Nusinov
Ron O'Leary
Len Padgett
Ron Paglia
Rex Paul
Todd Payich
Terence Powers
Scott Pierce
Don Poe
Harlan Powell
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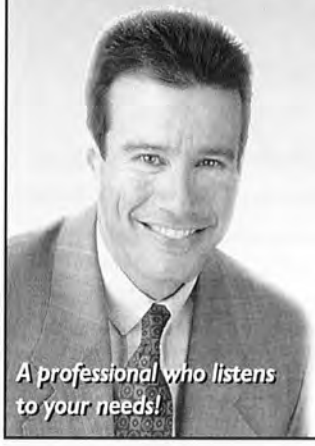

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The mission of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC, is to entertain through excellent musical performance, to affirm the place of Gay people in society, and to educate about the Gay experience.

Following are some examples of the Chorus'
COMMUNITY OUTREACH & INVOLVEMENT

Annual Toy Drive
Each December, GMCW hosts a Toy Drive collecting more than 500 new toys for under-privileged children in the Washington, DC, area. The tradition, begun by late founding member Bob Wonneberger, has become an annual chorus event. Toys are distributed through Community Family Life Services.

Northern Virginia AIDS Ministries / World AIDS Day Service
GMCW has performed at Northern Virginia AIDS Ministries' annual World AIDS Day (December 1) service, and sells annual holiday ornaments to benefit NOVAM.

AIDS Walk Washington
GMCW has performed at the kick-off ceremonies for AIDS Walk Washington and sponsored a team of walkers raising funds to support Whitman-Walker Clinic.

Annual Christmas Eve Caroling
Each Christmas Eve, members of GMCW are invited to the National Institutes of Health to sing carols for the patients being cared for there.

Annual MLK, Jr. Birthday Celebration
GMCW participates in an annual community celebration of the life of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This event is co-sponsored by the GLBT Arts Consortium of Washington, DC, and Capital Pride.

Capital Pride Parade and Performance
Each June, GMCW participates in the Capital Pride Parade and performs on the Main Stage and Arts Stage during the Capital Pride Festival.

Hillwood Museum and King's Dominion "Gay Day" Performances
GMCW participates in annual Gay Days hosted by the Hillwood Museum & Gardens and by Brother Help Thyself at Paramount's King's Dominion.

Annual Benefit for Sussex County AIDS Commission
For a number of years, GMCW has traveled to Rehoboth Beach, DE to perform a benefit concert for the Sussex County AIDS Commission.

In School Performances
In April 2004, GMCW performed its first in-school assembly at the Edmund Burke School in Northwest Washington. As a result of the overwhelmingly positive response received from that performance, additional in-school performances are being scheduled at area independent schools this season.

Annual Educators Workshop
As part of our mission to affirm the place of Gay people in society and to educate about the Gay experience, the Chorus initiated in 2003 an annual free workshop for educators titled "Creating a Safe Space for our Gay Families" which examines ways in which schools can achieve a welcoming and trusting environment for gay/lesbian students and their parents; gay/lesbian parents and their children; and gay/lesbian teachers, counselors and administrators.

Student Ticket Fund
GMCW encourages high school and college students to attend Chorus performances by making free and discounted tickets available to them. The Chorus also maintains close ties and connections to Gay/Straight Student Alliances and other student and youth groups.

PWA Ticket Fund
Complimentary tickets are made available to people living with HIV/AIDS through our health-service partners in the community — Whitman-Walker Clinic and Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry.

Sign Interpreted Performances
GMCW regularly provides professional sign language interpreters at its concerts for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Benefit Support & Performances
The Chorus regularly supports and performs at events for other area not-for-profit organizations, such as the Human Rights Campaign, Whitman-Walker Clinic, Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, the Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer, Community Family Life Services, HERO, Sussex County AIDS Commission, the Metro DC Chapter of PFLAG, Food & Friends, NOVAM and Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

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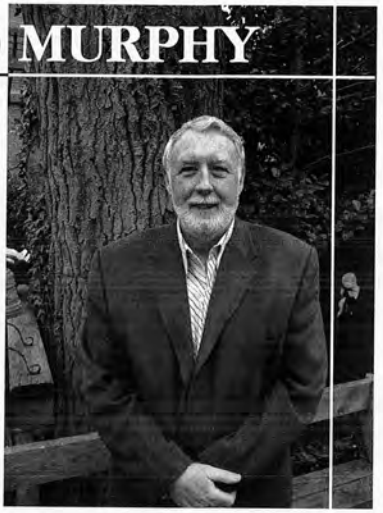

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GMCW'S ANNUAL TOY DRIVE IN MEMORY OF BOB WONNEBERGER

For over a dozen years, GMCW's own Bob Wonneberger would bring the joy of giving to his fellow chorus members and other friends at his annual holiday toy party. Bob's party would collect hundreds of toys that would be distributed to DC's needy through Community Family Life Services. The party became a gift to us by allowing each of us to share in the spirit of the season.

Bob Wonneberger left this world in October of 2002, but his spirit and his love remain. GMCW has sought to carry on his love by continuing his annual toy collection. We share it again this year with our audience family. We hope this joy of giving will become as much a tradition for you as it is for us...thanks to "Wanda."

THE WONNEBERGER MEMORIAL FUND

The Robert K. Wonneberger Memorial Fund was established in 2004 as a tribute to GMCW Founding Member Bob "Wanda Mae" Wonneberger who died in October 2002. The following individuals have made contributions to the Chorus in his memory. These gifts will be used to support GMCW's staged productions in the years to come. Thank you!

Dennis E. Adams
Stanley Allen & Thomas Smith, Jr.
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James Kevin Costello
Don R. Dailey
James E. Dice
David M. Dolecki & Jim Carey
Peter S. Freed
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Jack Gerard
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Donald Lewis Wright

THE CENTURY CIRCLE FUND

The Century Circle Fund was established in the fall of 1999 to honor GMCW's past and to ensure its future fiscal health. Donors to this initiative pledge to contribute $1,000 or $2,500 over a two-year period. The fund will be used in consultation with the Board of Directors for purposes that advance and ensure the financial stability of the Chorus. We wish to sincerely thank the following donors to the Century Circle Fund:

Jim Arshem
John F. Benton & David W. Briggs
Fred Boykin & Jack Killen
Peter R. Brayton
Robert H. Brown
Warren Buckingham &
Rev. Cannon Ted Karpf
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Circle of Excellence Awards are chosen annually by members of GMCW to recognize the outstanding contributions made by members of the Chorus, including paid music and administrative staff, the support section and the Capital Club. These awards honor those individuals who have exemplified the spirit of camaraderie, brotherhood, and community in the chorus and whose work has had lasting impact over many years.

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Jeffrey Buhrman
Tom Dudley *
Steve Herman
Jim Holloway
Steve Maddox *
Dr. Jim Richardson
Ron Sabacek
B. J. Sobus
Bruce Trinkley
Everett Waldo
Bob Wonneberger
Michael Ziskind

1992
Michael Bohn
Eric Korpon
Darrell Netherton
Harry Powers
Michael Rivard
Rick Rosendall
David Sisson
Duward Sumner

1993
Craig Bowen *
Peter Brayton
Phil Rogerson

1994
Rod Fiorito
Scott Pierce *
David Streit
Robert Wheeler

1995
Darrell Lewis
Len Padgett
Jim Peterson

1996
Michael Baker
Roger Bergstrom
Dick Dorr
Dennis Swick *

1997
Jack Gerard
Charlie Merk
Michael Milano
Gary Regan

1998
Kevin Doss
Robb Rexroth
Larry Rosen

1999
Jerry Carpenter
Bob Dragoset
Thom Gibb

2000
Kit Grieder
Gary Turner
Joe Vignali
Marvin Weeks

2001
Joe Cannon
Teddy Guerrant
Steven Haber
John Perkins
Michael Smith

2002
Carl Baldwin
Barry W. Bugg
Michael Cunningham
Dan Patton
Todd Paul

2003
Tom DiGiovanni
Rick Johnson
Kathy McGee
Chuck Walker

2004
Scott Button
Robert Klein
Jerry Lee
Harold Lewis
Jack Reiffer

2005
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Stuart Kopperman
Edward P. Oseroff

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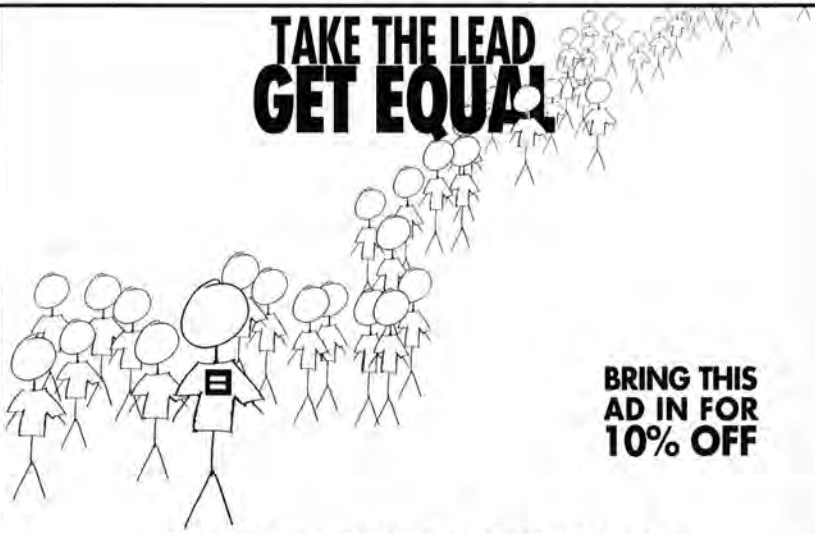

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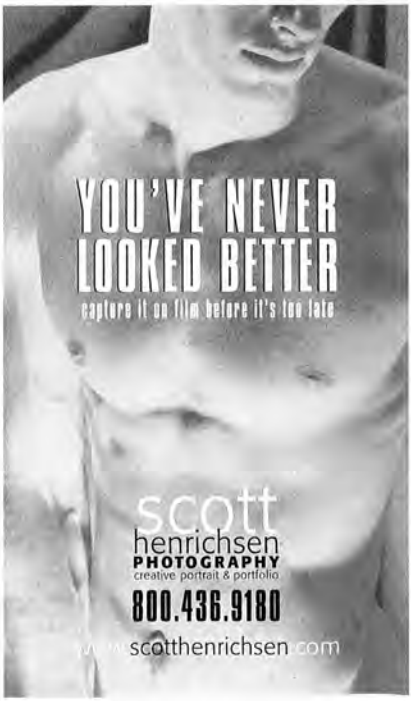

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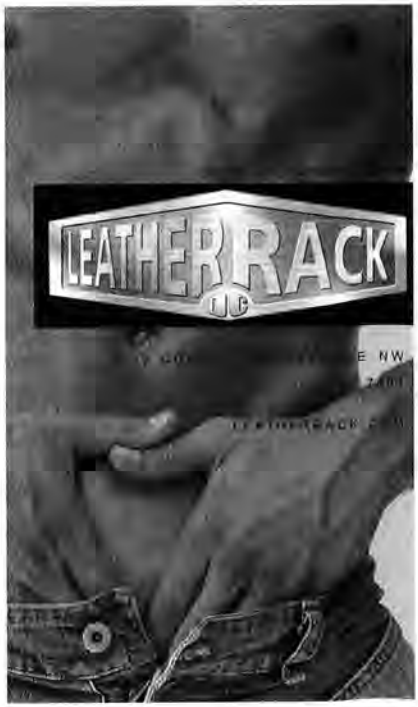

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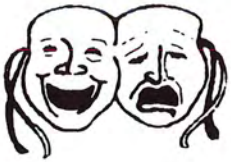

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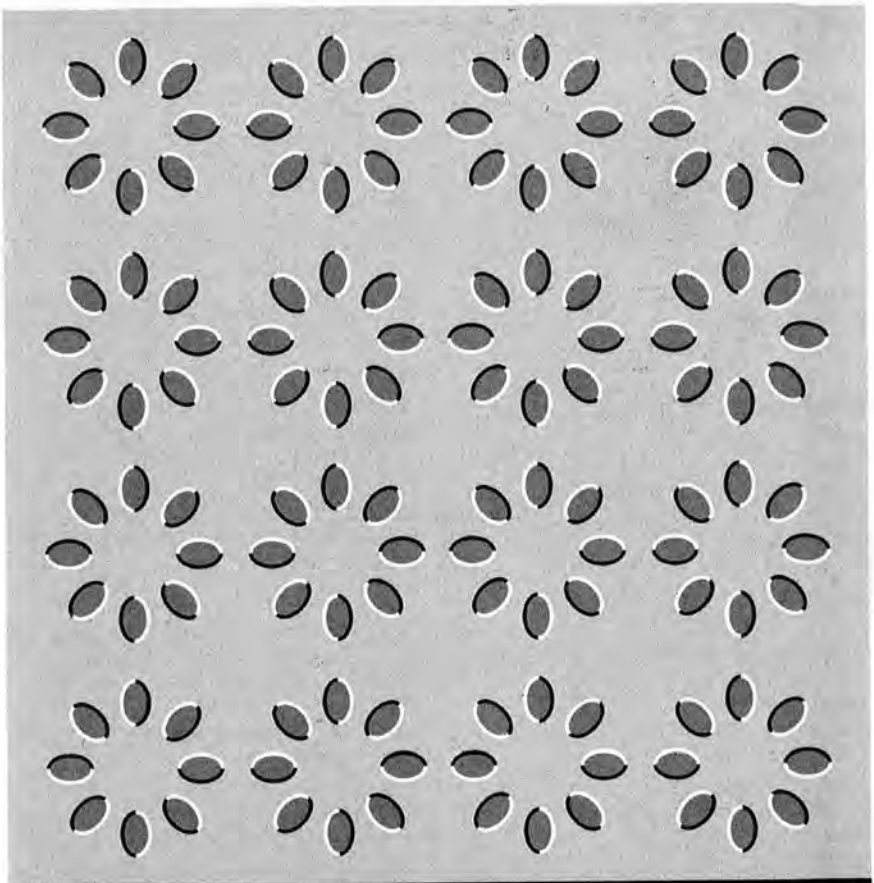

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